

# The Herald and News

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## EYES OF PEOPLE ON LEGISLATURE

### SPEAKER COTHRAN TELLS OF NEEDED LAWS.

Holds Constitution Forbids Making Permanent Improvements by General Appropriations.

The State, 12th.

Calling the attention of the members of the house of representatives to the cry that is coming insistently from the people for a reduction in or more equitable distribution of taxes, Thomas P. Cotheran, newly reelected speaker of the house, yesterday in addressing the members of the body, said that the people of the state have their eyes on the members of the house and that they will scrutinize their actions closely. The people are looking to the house for relief, he said, and he urged that the question of taxes be given the most careful consideration.

In the course of his remarks he discussed the advisability of fixing a maximum to the amount of money to be appropriated holding that such a restriction would tend to insure a restfulness among the people, and would prevent extravagant appropriations. He also condemned the practice which has grown up of appropriating funds for permanent improvements, holding that the constitution provides that the general assembly shall appropriate money only for ordinary and current expenses of the state, and he held that permanent improvements could not be classed as "ordinary" and "current" expenses. He also referred, in passing, to new sources of revenue for the state. His speech was listened to with closest attention and was accorded generous applause at its conclusion.

Following is a copy of his speech:

I appreciate very deeply the high honor which you have conferred upon me, and I trust that my earnest efforts to discharge the duties of that position, which I sincerely pledge to you, will be supported by the same kindly consideration.

"Be to my faults a little blind And to my virtues very kind."

I have never known the light to beat more fiercely upon you than it does at this particular time. The eyes of the whole state are upon you.

It is true, even though unfortunate, that in discordant times, in the discontent and depression of circumstances, due to causes which you can not control, the people turn to the lawmaking power for relief, at least for exemption from increased burdens.

There is little of relief that we can give, little we can do to restore the era of prosperity in which we basked only a few months ago, and whose blessings we fling away as a spendthrift would; there is much that we can do in preserving the state from greater burdens.

Many New Men.

The great majority of this house are new men, whose conception of the difficulties that lie ahead of them is necessarily immature and which the retrospect will show strangely inadequate.

The most serious problem that will arise will be to decide between the logically unanswerable demands of the state's educational and charitable activities and the ability of the people to respond to those calls. No one wants to cripple them; every one recognizes the reasonableness of their requests; we are drawn by the conflicting emotions of responding to them and the expediency under present conditions of doing so.

We can run the state upon less money if we are satisfied with the condition which will result thereby.

If we adopt the niggardly policy of appropriating just as little as these institutions can subsist upon, we very, very naturally reduce the present appropriations, but there will be no progress, and if no progress there will be decadence.

If we adopt the more liberal policy of advancement, of improvements, of progress, we can not hope to accomplish a sensible reduction.

If we adopt a policy of preserving

the status quo, of marking time for a period, we still can not hope to accomplish much in the way of reduction.

These three causes are open to you; personally I do not believe that we will or should take a backward step.

Contrary to Constitution.

In my opinion the state has continued for years a policy that is condemned by the constitution and has provoked much of the evil of an excessive appropriation bill, and that is, to pay for permanent improvement out of the current taxes. Year after year vast sums of money have been appropriated for new buildings at the hospital, Winthrop college, the university, the Citadel, the institutions for the blind, the feeble minded institutions, De la Howe and others. During the last five years the appropriations for permanent improvements, paid out of current taxes, approximate \$2,000,000.

The constitution provides, in my opinion, the general assembly to appropriate money only for the ordinary current expenses of the state. I have more than once called attention to this and at the last session prepared a resolution providing for the submission of a proposition to issue \$3,000,000 of bonds to provide for such improvements, as might be necessary, for a period of ten years; it was defeated by a large majority in this house. I still think that this should be done.

Hears Many Complaints.

It is, unfortunately, perhaps unmerited, but I state what I believe to be a fact, that the people are distrustful of these representatives in the matter of appropriations. I have never heard as great complaints in my life, from the people upon this subject as are now coming up from all parts of the state, and while I speak, a meeting of taxpayers is being held in this city to protest against further increase.

It seems like a dream to recall the fact that in 1908 I introduced a resolution providing for a constitutional limit of the amount of appropriations to \$1,250,000, which sum at that time had not been exceeded. It died in the committee. In 1920 the appropriations amounted to over \$6,000,000; and requests are now in for over \$9,000,000.

It is not too late now to put a check upon this outlay, and if the limit should be placed at \$5,000,000 for the next ten years, we could live within it and restore a feeling of confidence and restfulness.

At to Taxation.

I believe too that such a cause would secure a fairer and more equitable return and assessment of property for taxation. The real underlying reason why men do not return their property at full value is the fear that with a full assessment, the psychological effect upon the general assembly would be to increase appropriations and it seems reasonable that if these appropriations continue to pile up as they have done upon a scant assessment the result would be appalling upon a full one, unless there were a constitutional limit. Any plan that will secure equality in the burden of taxation will be welcomed, and the natural and logical basis of this equality is the actual valuation of the objects of taxation; that therefore which tends to secure this valuation necessarily leads to equality.

I believe further that the matter of valuation of property for assessment is essentially a local one, where it can be accomplished by those who are not only familiar with the property but directly intrusted in its bearing a just proportion of the burden. Should I be assessed at \$100 for property worth \$1,000, and my neighbor at \$500 for similar property, the deficiency in my taxes would be made up by the entire state, not by my neighbor; hence his interest in forcing me to come up to his standard would be so remote as to be ignored by him. But if the township, school district or ward in which we both live was required to raise a certain amount of money as its fair proportion of the state appropriations, my neighbor's interest in my delinquency would be immediate and substantial to the extent of enlisting his active vigilance in bringing me up to his standard.

I believe therefore that the entire amount appropriated for state ex-

## REIGN OF TERROR IN FLAME SWEEP CORK AS MACHINE GUNS IN STREETS SPIT DEATH.



A view of St. Patrick's street, the principal thoroughfare of Cork. As the result of a great fire which swept the business section of Cork it is estimated that \$15,000,000 damages has followed in the wake of the flames. The flames are said to have been set by the British forces in reprisal for the ambushing of two lorries loaded with special constables and auxiliaries. It is believed that many bodies are in the charred ruins of the buildings.

penses should be apportioned to each county, requiring it to raise a certain amount of money as its just share of the burden; then of each county's proportion let each township be required to raise a fixed amount. Localize the assessment and localize the interest of each taxpayer in what other tax payers in his district pay.

For Survey of State.

In 1917 with the assistance of Col. Johnson of Marion, I prepared a bill providing for a survey of the state. It does seem to me simply an act of business judgment to ascertain the assets of any business in which you may be intrusted. The greatest asset of the state from an income producing standpoint is the power of taxation. It has some property, most of which is a liability rather than an asset. Its income must come from taxes, and the amount of these taxes is governed by the value of the property to be taxed. Hence an inventory of this property, the source of its income, appears to me simply a work of plain business judgment, not only for the purpose of knowing what we now have but of assuring us that it will continue to be placed on the books as an asset, annually to be drawn upon. I had at the time the assurance of competent engineers that they would do the work for any county, platting county, township, school district and private property lines at six cents per acre and that they would take their pay only out of the taxes which by their efforts were placed on the tax books; not a cent of cost to the state, not a cent of cost to the county, not a cent to the property owner. In the language of a former representative from Greenville county the bill "went down under the bloody tomahawk of legislative warfare." The trouble with all tax reforms is that we flinch, and propose to abolish the whole system just as soon as it begins to accomplish something.

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE CITY FOR 1920

Births.	
White male	70
White females	53
Total whites	123
Black males	39
Black females	27
Total black	66
Total births	189
Deaths.	
White males	18
White females	17
Total whites	35
Black males	25
Black females	24
Total blacks	49
Total deaths	84
S. S. Cunningham, Local Registrar.	

## EXTRA SESSION LATE IN MARCH

The State.  
Washington, Jan. 11.—Information from Marion indicates that congress will be called into extraordinary session March 28.

The principal business with which the new congress will concern itself will be the preparation and enactment of a tariff bill. Such work consumes six months, as an average. As a result, it will be October when the bill is law, and congress given an opportunity to adjourn pending the regular session, the following December.

The business of the present congress consists solely in the enactment of pay bills which are necessary for the transaction of the government's business. There will be no emergency tariff legislation, as hitherto stated in this correspondence. Since Penrose, the Republican "boss" of Pennsylvania, fooled the country by stating his intention to support the bill which previously he had anathematized, there has been feeble hope. But Penrose was joking. He said in effect that he would support the bill, but would amend it—and that he hoped the house would accept such amendments. He knows that if the bill is amended following the time consumed in its consideration in committee and on the floor, it can not be enacted prior to March 4.

The tariff bill of the extraordinary session may bring on a clash between the new president and some of the members of the senate—that is unless President-elect Harding abandons his present intention of standing only for a "reasonable" bill. Senator Penrose, Senator Smoot, Senator Watson and others would erect a tariff wall about the country in that domestic manufacturing industries might flourish without competition. The excuse they offer is that the times are unusual, abnormal and so direful that they require unusual treatment.

A few Republican senators, will caution against such abuse of power. They fear that Penrose would lay a predicate for the election of a Democratic president four years hence. Such a possibility is also considered by Mr. Harding.

## Chapter Meeting.

The Dickert-Schumpert chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, will meet on Saturday, January 15, at 4 o'clock with Mrs. Harry H. Blease. Boyd Wheeler, President.

Abbie Gaillard, Secretary.

Lots of money was spent for fireworks and there was a big travel on all the roads, still folks say "hard times."—Tugaloo Tribune.

## CENSUS RECORDS LOST IN FLAMES

Washington, Jan. 10.—Priceless census records, dating back to 1790, when the first enumeration of the United States was taken, were destroyed tonight in a fire of unknown origin at the department of commerce. The records also include figures from every census up to the present one, and officials said that it would be days before even an estimate of the damage could be given.

The blaze originated in the basement of the commerce building and five alarms quickly brought every piece of apparatus in downtown Washington to the scene and more than 20 lines of hose completed the damage done to the records by pouring tons of water through windows into vaults where the records were kept.

During the two and a half hours which firemen fought the blaze three firemen were overcome by smoke and taken to the hospital. Among them was Frank Newman, recipient of the 1920 bravery medal.

T. J. Fitzgerald, chief clerk of the census bureau, said that the actual fire loss was very slight, but "the records destroyed could not be replaced if we had the entire wealth of the United States at our disposal. There are no duplicates."

Officials said that it was probably the most disastrous loss of records the government had ever sustained.

## News of Excelsior.

Excelsior, Jan. 13.—Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Cook have moved in their new home here. They have a warm welcome and may their sojourn together be long and pleasant.

Mrs. Rhoda Watts is visiting relatives in Greenville.

Mr. Robert Shealy and wife have moved in the J. D. Stone home.

A little early but some of our gardeners have Florida peas up and cabbage plants growing. Other plants will grow besides cotton plants.

Mr. Monroe Lester and family and Mrs. J. S. Werts of Saluda county spent Friday with Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Kinard.

Mr. Red Werts and family have moved in the J. D. Loric home.

The first Sunday in the new year was a good day for Excelsior. Rev. Mr. Anderson held two services here, one in the afternoon and the other at night. At the night service his theme was: "Prepare to Meet Thy God, O Israel." The services were interesting throughout.

If the Southern railroad would just open the way under the trestle near the school house we would have a fine road from Prosperity to Little Mountain. Of course the railroad people will do this some time but it is needed now.

Owing to the mild winter grain is

## MITTLE BEYOND BORDER OF STATE

### MEDICAL CERTIFICATES PRESENTED AT TRIAL.

Case in Orangeburg—Trial of Carlos Corbett Also May Be Heard At Present Term.

The State.

Orangeburg, Jan. 10.—The court of general sessions opened here today with Judge S. W. G. Shipp presiding. The day was largely taken up with organization of the court and charges to the grand jury. In the afternoon the case against Edward N. Mittle, charged with the murder of J. H. Patterson, was called. Mittle did not appear, his attorneys appearing for him offering certificates from two doctors as to his inability to be present. One was a certificate from Dr. Clarence E. Owen of Columbia. Dr. Owen stated that Mittle had called upon him and that Mittle was suffering from headaches and from some wound in the head, and as he would be away and could not, therefore, diagnose the case, suggested that Mittle go to Johns Hopkins hospital in Baltimore. There was a certificate from Dr. Barker of Baltimore stating that Mittle was suffering from trouble of the mind and that it would be necessary for Mittle to remain up there about ten days for observation.

The prosecution endeavored to show to the court the insufficiency of the showing and that Mittle should be brought to trial. There was no certificate from any doctor in Greenville, where Mittle resides. Mittle is now beyond the state of South Carolina, in some nursing home, although his case is set for trial at this term. Judge Shipp will announce his decision in the case tomorrow. If he decides to order Mittle to trial, Governor Cooper will be asked for necessary extradition papers to bring Mittle to trial.

Another case is that against Carlos Corbett, who is charged with the murder of Hugh Fanning and Jule Cooper, he having been acquitted at the September term of this court of the killing of Bryan Salley. Corbett's case will be called the second week of the court.

Other murder cases for the week are those against Bunch Gaillard, negro, charged with the murder of his wife; Booker T. Johnson, negro, charged with killing another negro at a hot supper; E. L. Byrd, negro of this town who operates a pressing club and tailor shop, charged with the killing of Julius Robinson, and murder cases are also held against the following negroes: Thomas Jamison, Moss Hilliard and Lum Gadsden.

## Mittle Trial Later.

Greenville, Jan. 11.—Continuance of in the case against Edward N. Mittle of Greenville, charged with the murder of J. H. Patterson near Rowesville, S. C., on the night of November 14, was granted today by Judge S. W. G. Shipp, presiding at the sessions court at Orangeburg, following consideration of affidavits presented by Mittle's lawyers pleading physical disability.

## Mrs. Frances Workman Davis.

The State.  
Newberry, Jan. 12.—Mrs. Frances Workman Davis, daughter of the late Madison F. Workman and widow of Joshua T. Davis of Floyd township, died yesterday at the home of her son, Thomas P. Davis, with whom she had made her home recently and was buried in the cemetery of Bush River church at noon today in the presence of many sorrowing friends and relatives, the funeral service being conducted by the Rev. E. L. Long of Clinton in the absence of her pastor, the Rev. R. H. Burris, who had gone to Anderson to be present at the funeral of his brother. Mrs. Davis is survived by two sons, Thomas P. Davis of Clinton and Asa Davis of Kinards, and one daughter, Mrs. Jesse W. Boyd of Spartanburg.

looking nicely. Our people are promising themselves to plant less cotton acreage and try to raise more to eat. Better would do it.

## HEARINGS OVER ON TARIFF BILL

### SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SPENDS BUSY DAY.

Opponents Believe Amendments Will Work Havoc With Fordney Emergency Plan.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Hearings on the Fordney emergency tariff bill were concluded by the senate finance committee tonight after another day of appeals, either to be excluded or included, had opened up what supporters of the measure feared and opponents hoped would be the means of adding amendments to the bill as it passed the house.

Senators McCumber, North Dakota, and La Follette, Wisconsin, Republican members of the committee, at the conclusion of the hearings, announced they had statements to make relative to the subject matter of the tariff. These will be read at a session Thursday, when it was indicated several other members would also declare their attitude. Mr. McCumber's statement will concern wheat duty, he said, and Mr. La Follette said his would be with respect to cheese, on which the bill provides no additional protection.

The close of the hearings brought indications of a concentration of effort among opponents of the bill and the turbulence with which some of them discussed the question was accepted to mean they would go far in their fight against passage of the measure, which is designated as an aid to farmers.

## Many Amendments Pending.

Already a dozen amendments are pending. Some of them, their sponsors openly assert, are intended to be facetious but for the direct purpose of taking up the time of the senate, and, if possible, of killing the bill. Senators Thomas, Colorado, and Harrison, Mississippi, Democrats, said today they would seek to have the soldier bonus and immigration bills tacked on to the tariff measure as amendments.

Another senator, it was reported, was prepared to introduce an amendment which would include the bill to recodify the nation's laws and to demand that this amendment be read. It is of sufficient length to keep reading clerks busy for two weeks.

## Sugar Growers Active.

Efforts are being made on behalf of sugar growers, dairy interests, and other agricultural groups to have the bill broadened to include products omitted from the house bill. Representatives of dairy interests, numbering more than a score, opposed appearing before the committee today; asked for duties on imported fresh and condensed milk and butter. Growers of live stock asked that frozen meats of all kinds be subjected to an import levy and cane sugar producers of Louisiana likewise urged protection against what they feared would be ruinous price reductions in the future.

The appeals of representatives of the dairy industry brought from several members of the committee statements indicating that some consideration should be given this branch of farm products. The dairy men's representatives told the committee that importations of Danish butter were injuring the American dairy industry.

This and other incidents of the final session it was asserted by several senate leaders forecasts a bitter fight behind the closed doors of the committee room Friday when the measure is to be considered.

## Items From Various Points in Saluda Standard, 13th.

Mrs. B. B. Schumpert of Prosperity is visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. A. Hunt.

Jonnie Robertson and Bennie Taylor spent the week-end in Newberry with relatives.

Attorney E. L. Asbill of Leesville was in town Saturday afternoon looking after the interests of his clients.

Jim Attaway spent last week-end in Newberry with his sister.

John Cook was in Leesville Friday. Harvey Kirkland was in Newberry Friday.

Jim Attaway and W. E. Riser attended a new year dance in Newberry last Saturday.